

## Underwood Writes

The following, signed by J. W. Underwood, was printed in the New Mexican yesterday.

Willard N. M., January 20. S. Spore, a gentleman who owns about 800 acres of land two miles east of Estancia, was in Willard last Friday morning, just returning from California, where he had been for some time visiting a cousin and investigating irrigation, especially irrigation by pumping water from wells. He is very much interested in this matter of water supply for irrigation and has contributed liberally towards demonstrating that there is an ample supply of underground water in this valley for the process of irrigation. From his personal observation of the well sunk east of Estancia near his land in an attempt to develop artesian water, he firmly believes that a few feet deeper would have developed an artesian flow; in fact, at a depth of about 570 feet, there was a flow of water but not sufficient in quantity for irrigation.

On this trip, he visited Los Angeles, San Diego, Fresno, San Bernardino, Santa Ana, Long Beach, Anaheim and other places. Mr. Spore is a close observer, a good thinker, and an interesting conversationalist, and being directly interested in the development of this valley as well as interesting. In a conversation with the writer he said he had no objection to the use of his name or the publication of his observations, or ideas of irrigation, or other information that he had gained, if it would be beneficial to the people, or contribute, in any way, to the development of this valley.

The larger portion of the water supply for irrigation in the district visited by him is furnished by companies, or capitalists who have installed power plants and sell the water to the farmers.

The soil in this district is generally very sandy with a large proportion of gravel and absorbs so much water that their canals, or main ditches, are either concrete or made of tile. It would be very difficult and expensive to secure a water supply for irrigation otherwise.

While here in our valley the sandy soil contains an element that cements or glazes the bottom and sides of the ditches as soon as the water is turned into them, as was demonstrated last year on the Peter McKissor farm just west of Willard. This portion of the McKissor farm is one of the most sandy tracts of land in this valley, yet in a few minutes after the pumping was started there was no apparent loss of water by sinking, or seepage. The lands there are much more rolling and uneven than they are here, so that the primary cost of preparing the land for irrigation will be much less here than in California.

In the shallowest wells investigated by Mr. Spore the lift was 80 feet; in the deepest the lift was from 410 to 415 feet, while the lift here in this valley is from 40 to 60 feet, according to the tests so far made.

Mr. Spore's cousin has installed on his farm, his own power plant and his own well. His power is a 15 horse power gasoline engine with pump regulated to the pow-

er of the engine. He has four acres for residence, barn, yard, lots, etc. Twenty-six acres in alfalfa and ten acres in field crop all of which he cultivates and irrigates himself. The cost to him for irrigating his alfalfa is two dollars per acre. It is more expensive to the farmer who buys his water from a company. The cost of irrigation is according to the kind of crop or purpose for which the water is used. Orange orchards require the most water of any of the crops under irrigation and cost about \$4.50 per acre per year. Other crops cost less.

The irrigation companies also furnish electricity for lighting towns, villages, farm residences and for all domestic purposes.

Raw land there is worth \$50 per acre and when under irrigation with some trees on it is worth from one to two thousand dollars per acre.

Mr. Spore expressed himself as being confident from the investigation made that the central power is the best method for securing the power for the people of our valley; but they should guard well their interests in any franchise granted, or contracts entered into. He has no doubt but much land will be under irrigation in our valley in a few years. The people here have many advantages over the people of California. California land is owned very largely by the wealthy, many of whom are non-residents, and are not directly interested in the personnel of the producer. They have no manufacturing industries of any importance and Los Angeles with a population of over three hundred thousand has not an established manufacturing industry of any great size. According to his observation, it is supported almost entirely by the local trade and the traveling public.

## Official Vote in County

The official vote on county officers in this county as canvassed by the state board is as follows:—County Commissioners First District: Lorenzo Zamora 882; Jesus Candelario 760; W. S. Kirk 71. Second District: Juan Cruz Sanchez 559; Serafin Candelario 772; J. W. Hambrick 91. Third District: Librado Valencia 918; W. R. Green 751; J. R. Rhodes 87.

Probate Judge: Cecario Montoya 842; Jose de Jesus Romero 802; John Burkshire 100.

County Clerk: Manuel Sanchez, Jr., 926; J. J. White 747; J. A. Chapman 89.

Sheriff: Julius Meyer 886; Crestino Chavez 771; John Chastain 91.

Assessor: Antonio Salazar 843; D. C. Howell 818; J. E. Chapman 81.

Treasurer: C. J. Amble 1041; Angus McGillivray 638; S. W. Moore 71.

Superintendent of Schools: Charles Burt 941; Ira L. Ludwick 718; Hattie Bigabee 76.

Surveyor: H. B. Hawkins 859; Ralph A. Marble 811; H. N. Seymour 81.

The principal trouble in Cuba seems to be that there are not enough offices to go around.

## Republican State Convention

Santa Fe, N. M., Jan. 25.—The Republican state committee, which met here at 10:30 o'clock this morning, decided to call the state convention for the selection of delegates to the national convention for March 8 at 2 p. m. in this city. This will bring the Republican convention here three days before the convening of the first state legislature.

The Republican state convention will select eight delegates to the national convention which meets in Chicago for the purpose of nominating the Republican candidate for president.

Judge A. B. Fall and Charles Springer were appointed a committee to draw up a set of rules for the government of the party.

The committee decided that representation in the convention shall be one delegate for each hundred votes or major fraction thereof based on the vote cast for Bursum at the last election; and one delegate at large from each county.

This basis of representation will give Torrance county nine delegates in the convention, as

The committee was called to order by Venceslao Jaramillo, state chairman. Upon motion of Solomon Luna a committee of seven was named to prepare the call for the state convention and the date was specified as March 8.

The executive committee this afternoon held a short session and discussed plans for better organization of the party and other matters not made public.

The plan which Judge Fall and Mr. Springer will present will be subject to revision by the state committee.

## Womans Club

The Woman's club was entertained by Mrs. Mildred Pickens at the home of her mother, Mrs. Goodner, with Mesdames Stubblefield, Kelly, Travis, Mason, VanStone, Ewing, Elgin, Jenson, Pickens, Bannum, Cowgill, and Miss Simmons present.

An hour was spent with cards, when the club was called to order. A committee was appointed to confer with the railroad company about some much needed park improvements. Also, a committee was appointed to send for flowers for the sick members, and several other business matters were discussed.

At four o'clock the hostess, assisted by her mother and Mrs. Jenson, served a very dainty little two course luncheon, consisting of pressed chicken and sandwiches, coffee, cake and pine apple with whipped cream.

Mrs. Van Stone will entertain at Mrs. Stubblefields with a literary program, also embroidery day.

In the final proof notices of Mauricia Sanchez Vigil, William J. Henry, Newton Goss, Isaac W. Turner, and Hubert L. Bainum the officer before whom proof is to be made has been changed to Probate Clerk, in compliance with instructions from the land office at Santa Fe. The claimants and witnesses in these cases should keep this in mind.

Spinal meningitis is reported at Kansas City, Mo., Atchison, Kansas, and Springfield, Mo.

## Stock and Game Dying

Denver, Jan. 24.—"Cattle, rabbits and quail are dying by the thousands in southeastern Colorado and across the line in western Kansas," said Rudolph Borchardt, deputy state game warden, today, on his return from that section.

Mr. Borchardt said that he counted hundreds of animals on each side of the highway lying dead in the fields as he drove through. He insisted that conditions are worse than have been reported and that he could not see any prospect of relief as not enough hay was being brought into that section of the country to feed the starving animals.

## Moparty

From The Messenger

A dance was given last night at the home of C. B. McCrary in honor of the White girls who are visiting at the Seaman home.

In ten months J. M. Russell, of Stanley, sold over one hundred dollars worth of butter and milk besides having plenty for his own use.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray Moore of Earlham, Iowa, are visiting their brother, H. L. Moore, on the Williams claim, northwest. Mr. and Mrs. Moore are returning home from a trip to California.

David Fisk and Charles Fisk, of Cleveland, Ohio, have been here the past week looking for a location in the shallow water district. Mr. Charles Fisk is a practical poultry man and says he sees no reason why poultry and dairy products should not pay well in the Estancia valley.

The school board had a permanent platform built in the school house this week.

George P. Hulett and family are making preparations to move on their farm next month. Mr. Hulett is having a windmill erected and just recently purchased two cows and two heifer calves from O. K. Knight.

O. F. Fisher has just finished a 162 foot well, with 45 feet of water, on G. W. Fisher's claim, seven miles north.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. James gave a party at their home, east of town, last Wednesday night.

So far we have learned of a dozen bachelors that answered the ad of two weeks ago. Venus coming to the front with half of these.

There is much talk about presidential candidates these days and candidates are being killed and brought back to life with the most astonishing facility. One day we have it from one source that Woodrow Wilson is deadlier than a door nail as Democratic possibility, and the next day from a different source we learn that Wilson is practically sure of the nomination. Likewise Taft is a sure winner one day, and on the next he can't get within hailing distance. Same thing with the balance of the bunch—except one man. In the case of that one man it seems to be a guessing contest as to whether he'll have it, if offered to him on a silver platter That's Teddy.

Wanted—If wanting to buy good horses see Sam Jenson.

## Captured in Estancia

After following John Smith, who escaped from the Flagstaff jail for nearly three weeks, Sheriff S. W. Francis, one of the veteran officers of Arizona, arrived here last night with the man under arrest. Francis, aided by New Mexico officers caught the man at Estancia where he was found looking for a job.

"I have caught three of the four men who escaped," said Sheriff Francis, "and have definite news of the other one who will likely be apprehended at any time now."

The Sheriff said that Smith was wanted for horse stealing and was awaiting the action of the Arizona courts. The sheriff left with his prisoner on the delayed limited this afternoon.

Smith was kept in the city jail last night. This morning he accompanied the officer to a restaurant and they ate breakfast. Smith talked freely of his attempted escape.

He made his way from Arizona into New Mexico following the Santa Fe railway but keeping away from the towns. He tried to travel at night and slept during the day, concealing himself as best he could. Some of the time he rode on freight trains but most generally he walked and he suffered many hardships due to lack of food and winter clothing. During the cold wave of a few days ago he almost froze to death but managed to get enough to eat by begging at out of the way places. He said he wanted to get a job in order to earn enough money to help him out of the country and buy himself warmer clothing.

At Belen, Smith said, he walked into a Santa Fe special officer before he realized he was so close to town.

Smith said the officer covered him with a 30-30 Winchester. "I threw up my hands," Smith said, "for I thought it was all off with me. To my surprise, I found that the officer did not know me and he told me to beat it off the right of way. I obeyed the order quickly. I took no more chances at Belen and wandered on until I got to Estancia. I was worn out, cold and hungry and I guess I got careless for I was soon recognized by the officers and arrested." Sheriff Francis said Smith had given him no trouble en route and seemed willing enough to go back now that he had failed to get out of the country.

The other escaped men were caught before they got out of Arizona. They were found riding a couple of horses, headed for the mountains and were stopped by a posse.

There is much grumbling going the rounds about a report current as to the reduction of taxes assessed against E. P. Davies.

The report is to the effect that the taxes of Mr. Davies for the years 1909, 1910 and 1911 amounted in round numbers to \$165, and that Judge McFie reduced this to \$50 and some odd cents; and that the application had not been passed upon by the assessor and the county treasurer, as provided by law.

Antonio Stanton, who has been a salesman for the Willard Mercantile Co., has succeeded Mr. Jackson as manager, the latter having resigned.